

WAR DOES NOT  
HELP ZINC MINING

Producers Prefer Old Time Conditions and Believe End of War Will Bring Much Improvement

There is no war prosperity for this district now, so far as the producers of zinc and lead ores are concerned, says the Joplin Globe. They would much prefer that conditions were as they were before the war, and they will be glad when the price of zinc ore drops to its ante bellum price, provided mining costs drop at the same time to what they were previous to 1914.

One of the commonest objections to be met by those promoting mining transactions is some such argument as this: "Yes, I can see your proposition is a good one now, but what will happen when the war is over?" Which shows that people generally have not figured out that zinc and lead mining just now, though still profitable, is not as profitable as before the war, nor as profitable as it will be when the war ends and normal conditions once more prevail.

It is easy to prove the correctness of this proposition. In the years 1912, 1913 and 1914 the total production of lead and zinc ore in the district amounted to 986,904 tons, with a total estimated value of \$44,648,712, or an average value of \$45.15 per ton during these years. Up to November 15, 1917, a total of 466,310 tons of concentrates were produced for a total value of \$33,362,508. This gives an average value of \$71.51, or 58 per cent higher than for the three years before the war.

But while this average price of ore was so much higher, it has been more than offset by the increase in mining costs. Reliable estimates place the average increase in costs of labor this year over the three-year period mentioned as 65 per cent; increased cost of supplies, 95 per cent; of total operating charges, 80 per cent, and of investment, 100 per cent.

Thus, while the average cost of operating in the Oklahoma field in 1912-13-14 was \$1.05, now it is \$1.89. These costs, it should be noted, take no account of interest, depreciation or depletion charges.

A concrete example showing that it will be more attractive to mine when prewar conditions again prevail than it is now, may serve to prove the proposition more clearly.

Suppose an investment of \$150,000 in the Oklahoma field in 1912 or 1913. If the dirt gave a 3 per cent recovery, which, of course, is close to the lowest for the field, and a 15 per cent royalty was paid, there should have resulted a profit of \$24,264, or 16 per cent on the investment for the year. It figures like this. At that time a \$150,000 investment would have bought two 400-ton mills and in 300 days they would have handled 240,000 tons of dirt and produced 7,200 tons of concentrates. We have seen that the average price of concentrates in 1912 and 1913 was \$45.14. Less the 15 per cent royalty, this average price may be figured at \$38.37 per ton, so the total production would have brought in \$276,264. The cost of production at that time was \$1.05 per ton, or for the 240,000 tons \$252,000 which, deducted from the total income, leaves, \$24,264 for the profit.

This year the same investment would purchase but one 400-ton mill, investment costs having increased 100 per cent. This mill working on the same 3 per cent dirt would handle but 120,000 tons for an output of concentrates of 3,600 tons. The average price this year for all ores was \$71.51, which for the sake of convenience may be called \$71.50. Less the 15 per cent royalty cost would be \$60.78, which would give a total value for the production of \$218,000. As the average cost now for the Oklahoma field is estimated at \$1.89 per ton, the cost for handling the 120,000 tons would be \$226,800, which is \$8,800 more than the total income, or a loss of that amount on the operation, exclusive of interest, depreciation and depletion charges.

Mines in which the dirt runs better than in the examples given are numerous, of course, and they are still being operated profitably, but it is important for persons interested in this field to appreciate that better conditions may be expected when peace comes, rather than poorer.

## DAILY STARTS NEXT MONDAY

If you want to show up as a booster and get your advertisement in the first number of Baxter Spring's first daily newspaper, please speak for space before the close of business Saturday.

The first number of the Baxter Daily Citizen will appear Monday evening, December 10. Thereafter it will be printed every week day and circulated between four and six o'clock. Copy for publication, either advertising or news, should be in before noon on the day of publication.

We made an effort to get the daily started last Monday but were unable to get everything ready in time.

Mr. B. K. Baghdigian, who was with this paper for a long time, but quit a few weeks ago to go to work for the Joplin Globe, has returned to his first love and will look after the advertising department of the new daily; also specialize on mining news.

We are going to do our best to give the people a good, wide awake little daily paper and we want the good people to help us. Bring in and telephone news items to us. We want to print all the news but in ourselves can cover only a limited amount of territory, so we must depend upon our readers to see that we are informed about what is happening in every part of the city and vicinity.

We want to reach every home for a few days with the daily and shall try our best to do so; but if you should fail to find the paper on your doorstep next Monday night, come to the office and get a copy and tell us where you live.

## MANY BUY COWS

That the dairy fever seems to have struck the vicinity of Baxter Springs is shown by the fact that many of the farmers have purchased pure bred stock from Fred Dutcher of Wisconsin, who will ship the cows direct from his home. Among those who have bought cows are: Francis Quappaw Goodeagle, five; J. O. Chubb, five, and Mr. Lamb, ten.

## SHAFTS AT CRESTLINE

Three shafts are being sunk, eight miles north of Baxter Springs, in the Crestline district. The drill cuttings indicated paying ore on the Ellis, Newton and Lyleria places.

SEWER BONDS NOT  
TO BE HELD UP

Requirements of Bonding Company To Be Met By City At A Special Meeting of Council

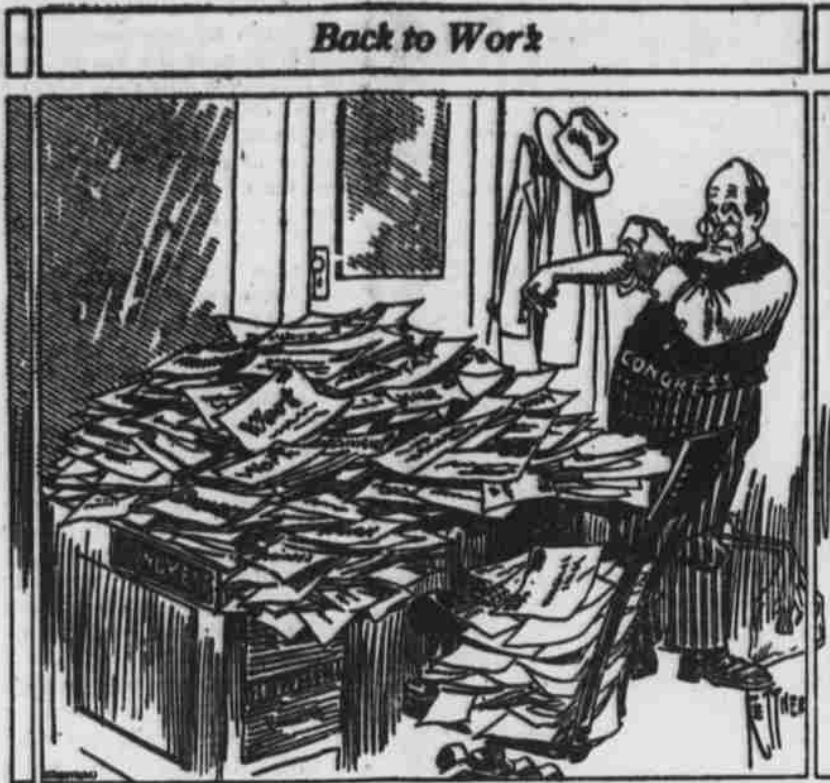
Grant Waggoner, city attorney, was in Wichita Monday in consultation with Dunne & Co., the company that bought the city sewer bonds. Together with the company's attorney, Mr. Cowan, Mr. Waggoner succeeded in getting several minor matters cleared up, so the money on the bonds will hereafter be available as fast as the city needs it. Mayor Wright is taking a deep interest in seeing that the sewer project is not interrupted.

There really has been no interruption of work on the sewers as has been rumored on the street of late. The work is progressing as well as can be expected in these days of slow shipments of freight and other obstacles.

Dunne & Company, the bonding company, held up payment of \$15,000 which amount was the first draft the city had made, but this was done simply because the city had not fully been informed as to the rules of the company in furnishing transcripts of ordinances, etc., relating to the sewer districts. The main point that the company wanted cleared up was the definite establishment of the city limits. These records appear to have been lost several years ago and it will be necessary to enact a new ordinance. This will be done forthwith so that the sewer work will not be delayed. The plan is to build the main sewers and the laterals through the business district first.

## McCULLOUGH ARRESTED

Steve McCullough, a drill man, was arrested yesterday for stealing tools from S. B. Jarrett. The preliminary hearing was set for December 15 and McCullough gave a \$200 bond to appear on that day.



## SAFETY AND SANITATION FOR MINERS

Operators Take Steps to Form Association and Erect Club House for Meetings—Met at Miami

The newly organized Oklahoma and Kansas Mine Safety and Sanitation association met at Miami Monday noon in its new temporary club house, Third and Connell avenue, says the Daily Record-Herald.

The official name of this mine operators' organization has not been selected, but the matter was placed in the hands of a committee composed of Messrs. Wallower, Bendalari, Von Borries, Tuthill and Newton.

A. E. Bendalari, manager of the Eagle-Picher Lead Company, presided as chairman. This was their second meeting, the first being in the offices of the Admiralty mine, Douthat, recently.

The organization is to be incorporated as soon as a name is agreed upon, and the charter membership fee was placed at \$250. Thirteen companies and several individual operators have signed for membership, among who are the following:

Eagle-Picher, Admiralty, Sinden Zinc, Golden Rod, Good Eagle, Church and Wright, Ann Beaver company, William Foster White, Underwriters Land, Bilharz, American Metal and Commerce Mining and Royalty company.

Messrs. Chapman, Bendalari, Brinton, Rakowsky and Tuthill were named on the finance committee.

The erection of a permanent club house on the Blue Mound has been suggested, and it is planned to secure \$25,000 in charter membership fees, which would make the plan possible.

Messrs. Draper, Warren, Huttig, Marcum and Potter were appointed on the membership committee.

A noon-day luncheon was served.

## A WONDERFUL STRIKE

Sixth Drill Hole Maintains Average That Has Never Been Exceeded

On the R. O. Thomas farm, about three miles southwest of Baxter, the prospecting crew is now sinking the sixth hole. This is the land on which a sensational strike was made about three weeks ago, the drill going through an 180 foot face of ore, 18 feet of which was practically pure jack, assaying 72 per cent. This was in the fourth hole drilled. The last hole is showing a deep face of good ore. It is doubtful if any other spot in the Oklahoma-Kansas field has shown as rich a deposit of lead and jack. From the first three holes, the cuttings averaged about 22 per cent, the fourth as stated above, the fifth hole 25 per cent and the sixth fully as good as the average. All showed ore at 50 feet and the best at 103 to 110 feet. The operating lease is held by the Admiralty Zinc company of Webb City, which company is now engaged at removing a mill from Webb City to the new site.

There was a box supper Tuesday evening at the Catholic church at the corner of Cheuteau and Vine streets. There were nearly 30 persons present.

APPEAL FOR HELP  
ON PICHER ROAD

Committee Urges Baxter People Who Use Road to Do His Share in Rebuilding It—Work Sunday

The News has received for publication the following communication from the committee in charge of rebuilding the Baxter-Picher road:

"The men in charge of the rebuilding of the road between Baxter and Picher wish to thank all those who helped in the work last Sunday. Also to thank the business men of Baxter for the way they indorsed the movement. If the writer is not mistaken just two Baxter business houses were represented last Sunday and about four single hands were on the job to offer their assistance. The writer thinks that the call for help in building roads in the Baxter territory should receive more of an indorsement than has thus far been extended by the business people of Baxter."

"We wish also to inform the readers of the News that we are going to gravel again next Sunday and will need about fifty single hands to take care of the trucks that will be on the job. We shall also need every truck in Baxter to make this movement a success and we feel that every person who has occasion to travel over this road ought to realize the importance of having it well graveled and kept in good condition."

"If we can make this movement a success we shall be able to save a large sum of money every day that this co-operative plan is used; so let every man who is interested make it a point to either be on the job himself or send a man out to help put Baxter on the map."

"The work that was accomplished last Sunday was a wonderful start; 150 yards of gravel were hauled and we were able to make the west road passable until we can get more gravel hauled."

Below is a list of the volunteers who worked last Sunday:

Joplin Supply Co., Joplin	4 trucks
Hercules Powder Co.,	2 trucks
United Iron Co.,	1 truck
Rogers Foundry,	3 trucks
Shohsky Mch. Co.,	1 truck
City Transfer Co.,	1 truck
Webb City	
Central Foundry	1 truck
Picher	
Atlas Powder Co.,	1 truck
Galena	
Galena Wholesale Gro. Co.,	3 trucks
Single Hands	
Brown Head Tire Co.	
Jones-Marshall Supply Co.	

LARGE QUARTERS FOR THE MOOSE

At the last meeting of the Loyal Order of the Moose, it was voted to find larger quarters for their home. They are now meeting in the Arbuthnot building. It was also decided to open the charter to get new members, which will allow persons to join the order at \$5, in stead of \$25 as is the price now.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Christian church met yesterday afternoon in the church and worked on the quilts, which are being made for the purpose of raising money for the church.

## THE WATER QUESTION

Usually there are two sides to a question, and no doubt Mr. Bilger, who is now seeking a franchise from the city for a water plant, can offer a reasonable plea of extenuating circumstances as an excuse for the very poor water service the city has received at his hands for the past several weeks.

The News wants to injure no person, and its purpose is to state only facts; but we consider it a public duty to do all we can to insure for the city a good water supply and at a cost that will be fair to the consumer.

And to make sure of having good water and plenty of it at a reasonable price we insist that the people must own and operate their own water plant.

To substantiate this claim we would again call attention to the fact that according to an official statement now on our desk, in the state of Kansas just 13 cities and villages including Baxter, have water plants operated by private companies. The others to the number of several hundred, all are owned and operated by the people, and the cost of water to the consumer is very much lower on the average than Mr. Bilger wants to exact from the people of this city. Surely the property owners of Baxter ought to open their eyes and get behind the movement for a municipal water system.

## HOSPITAL AT PICHER

The thirty-five bed hospital, which is now being built at Picher, will be opened formally about December 16, according to Dr. D. L. Connell, proprietor of the institution.

Modern appliances will be used in the hospital and an ambulance service will be maintained by an undertaking firm at Picher. The need of a hospital at Picher has been pointed out time and again when mine accident victims were forced to be taken to Joplin, a distance of nearly 25 miles. It is predicted that the new hospital will be patronized by the people of Treece, Century, Cardin, Commerce and other mining camps of the district.

POOR MACHINERY—  
NOT THE ENGINEER

Shutting Off Water During Night Not Because of Inattention to Duty—the Reason

Last week the News printed an article concerning the water plant and in it it stated that one man went to the plant and awakened the engineer to have him turn on the water. While the statement was true in general, there was a reason for it and we are glad to have the opportunity to print the truth today:

On account of a breakage in the compressor the plant was idle, but there was 14,000 gallons of water in storage. It was saved to turn on at five o'clock in the morning so that the people could have water for breakfast. That was the reason why the water was not turned on. Because there was nothing for the engineer to do and he was waiting for the repair man to come in and fix the compressor, and because he had been up for 48 hours, he fell asleep. This is the truth concerning the report of the engineer being awakened from his sleep to supply water to the city.

Bob Mason, the engineer, has been faithful at his task. He could be seen in the plant practically any time of the day or night. So far as we are able to observe he has been trying to do his "damndest" to keep on a constant supply of water to satisfy the wants of the public. It is not, however, Mr. Mason's fault when the engine or the compressor or any part of the machinery breaks.

"As we are now," said Mr. Mason today, "We are fixed to supply the city with water and give them good service, but when the question of the franchise is settled and we can install other machinery, then we will be able to give a first class service."

The next meeting of the Navy League will be with Mrs. Nathan.

OTHER MINERALS  
IN O K DISTRICT

Analysis of Ore Samples Discloses Gold, Copper and Potash in Quantities Well Worth Extracting

Gold, silver, copper and potash have been discovered in this mining field, at different places, according to rumors which have reached this office.

According to this story, an assayer at one of the mining camps, upon examining some mineral, discovered that it contained 4 per cent copper. It is said that only 2 per cent copper is considered profitable to mine. If this is true and if the discovery of ore is verified, its importance to this field will mean much.

Another story, which is more sensational than the first one, comes from the Indian Queen mine, four miles southwest of Baxter Springs, in the Quappaw district. It is reported that the operators of this mine sent a sample of their ore to Denver, Colo., to be assayed for other minerals with the result that this assay disclosed values of \$15.00 in gold, \$5 in silver and \$9 in potash to the ton.

The process for the recovery of the ore is said to be a new one. It requires no smelting and when it comes from the contractor it is ready for the market. It is reported that the Indian Queen Mining company is already sinking a shaft and will install the new process of separating ore.

## PART OF KANE LEASE SOLD

A three-eighths interest of the Amos Freeman lease on the Eli Kane land, one and a half miles northwest of Baxter Springs, was sold recently to Mr. Paulson and his associates of Tulsa, Okla. A brother to Mr. Paulson, Henry, was already a part owner with Mr. Freeman. Mr. Freeman owned half interest in the lease. The terms of the transaction are not made public, but the price placed on the three-eighths interest, which is said to be \$68,000, indicates that the terms were attractive to Mr. Freeman.

## BAXTER'S NEW DRUG STORE

The Nichols-Goodeagle drug store new in fixtures, stocks and attraction, is opened under a management that is well known to the natives of Baxter Springs. We are referring to Fred Nichols, who has lived in this city for twenty-six years, the ten years of which he has spent in the drug business. Merton Goodeagle has a half interest in the business.

This store was opened recently and the patronage it has received so far indicates that its place, as a permanent institution in this fast growing city, is fixed. The store has a sixteen feet marble and onyx soda fountain which cost \$2500. The center of the floor is tiled and the show cases are entirely of glass and marble. There are five sets of nickel plated tables and chairs and more will be bought next spring. The wall cases are of oak and every one of them has a sliding door and the prescription case has three French beveled mirrors.

## PITTSBURG-MIAMI MILL

The frames of a 500-ton capacity mill on the Pittsburg-Miami mine, five miles southwest of Baxter Springs. Several smaller buildings have already been finished. Two shafts are down to the ore body.

## MILL FROM CARTHAGE

The old Red Bird mill is being moved from its old place in the Carthage district to this mining field by Clark & Cole of Tar River, where they will reassemble it on their lease. Two shafts on this lease are down to the ore body.

Secretary Mariner of the Chamber of Commerce, is in Hutchinson attending the annual meeting of the state association of Chamber of Commerce and Commercial Club secretaries. He is to read a paper and will get a chance to tell what is going on in Baxter Springs. He also will put in a bid for the 1918 meeting to be held in Baxter Springs. The inducement he has to offer in the way of sight seeing and industrial activity, ought surely to bring this live wire bunch of men.